

REMARKS

Claims 13-17 and 26-28 are pending in this application.

Claims 8-12 and 18-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Objected to claims 13, 15 and 16 have been amended to place them in independent form and each include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

In view of the claims as amended and the remarks set forth below, further and favorable consideration, is respectfully requested.

I. At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 22-25 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 22-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

II. Claims 9-11, 18, 19-20 and 22-24, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of Kikitsu et al. (US 6,602,620).

Claims 9-11, 18, 19-20 and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

III. Claims 12, 21, and 25, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of Kikitsu et al. (US 6,602,620) and further in view of DeOrnellas.

Claims 12, 21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

IV. At page 4, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates claims 13-17 and 26-28 allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection, independent claims 13, 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the remarks set forth above and the claims as amended, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Susanne M. Hopkins
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 33,247

Atty. Docket No. 010328
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930
DWH/nk



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